Ministry of
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

2010/11
Annual Service Plan Report

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation *2010 11 Annual Service Plan Report*, outlining achievements during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

The report reflects our progress towards building a New Relationship with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples. It outlines the ministry's ongoing efforts to help close the gaps in economic development, education, health care and housing that separate Aboriginal peoples from other British Columbians. As we work to address these challenges, our focus is on building respectful and constructive relationships with Aboriginal people and supporting economic growth and job creation for Aboriginal families and communities across British Columbia.

Our government is focused on supporting families and creating jobs that will build a brighter future for all British Columbians. The ministry's work strongly supports this vision.

These are exciting times, as we build on the momentum we have seen over the past year: I was honoured to be in Port Alberni to take part in the festivities as the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty celebrated the effective date of their treaty. I saw first-hand how much it meant to those communities, bringing with it promise for their children, their families and future generations. This year, we also witnessed community ratification of the Yale final agreement, followed by the passage of provincial legislation, setting the stage for the passing of federal legislation and, finally, another treaty effective date.

Treaties are the most comprehensive type of reconciliation agreement with First Nations, but we have seen great success through other types of agreements that create the opportunity for meaningful and lasting reconciliation.

British Columbia also signed a strategic engagement agreement with Ktunaxa Nation Council and concluded the implementation of strategic engagement agreements with the Nanwakolas First Nations and the Tsilhqot'in National Government. These agreements will streamline consultation on natural resource decisions and provide increased predictability for investors.

In 2010, the Nuxalk Nation became the sixth First Nation to join the groundbreaking Coastal Reconciliation Protocol.

British Columbia also reached a final agreement with BC Hydro and the 11 member bands of St'át'imc to address longstanding grievances regarding the construction and operation of BC Hydro's Bridge River System.

British Columbia is the first province in Canada to share direct revenue generated from mining activities with First Nations. In August 2010, British Columbia signed two historic revenue-sharing agreements with the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation, regarding the mines at Mount Milligan and New Afton, respectively.

I am proud of the contribution by each member of the ministry to the realization of our goals. We are moving forward in the treaty process and working with our Aboriginal partners to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. The progress we are making proves the strength of the New Relationship, with each new agreement building towards a stronger foundation for all British Columbians.

Although proud of our achievements, we will not waiver as we move forward. The British Columbia Government will continue to support the New Relationship and engage First Nations in dialogue about next steps and how best to create jobs and strengthen families in Aboriginal communities.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation's *2010 11 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2010 11 – 2012 13 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

June 28, 2011

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Highlights of the Year

Treaties:

Treaties are formal expressions of reconciliation and they are a positive tool for building capacity and stimulating community economies. A treaty is a negotiated agreement that sets out clearly defined rights and responsibilities of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments, including land ownership; governance; wildlife and environmental management; and financial benefits and taxation. In 2010/11, three significant milestones were reached with First Nations in the treaty process:

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mary Polak celebrates the Maa-nulth Final Agreement effective date.

The Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement: This treaty was brought into effect on April 1, 2011 and includes five Maa-nulth First Nations (Huu-ay-aht, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Ucluelet and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations) on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The agreement includes a 24,550 square hectare land package and a $73.1 million capital transfer over 10 years that will be distributed among the five Maa-nulth First Nations. The agreement, which sets out the terms of governance for the five Maa-nulth First Nations, will also create economic opportunities in fishing and forestry.

The Yale First Nation Final Agreement: Yale First Nation ratified its final agreement in March 2010 and British Columbia has passed the required provincial legislation. Once Canada passes federal legislation, the final agreement will be fully ratified. The agreement provides a capital transfer of $10.7 million and economic development funding of $2.2 million. The agreement also includes approximately 1,966 hectares of provincial Crown land and former Indian reserve lands to be owned in fee simple as well as ownership of all forest and sub-surface resources on or under Yale First Nation land. As a treaty First Nation, the Yale government may make laws respecting forest resources and practices on their land.

The K'ómoks First Nation Agreement in Principle: On March 26, K'ómoks First Nation voted 74 per cent in favour of ratifying its agreement in principle. The agreement in principle provides approximately 2,000 hectares of land and a capital transfer of approximately $17.5 million. Once the agreement in principle is ratified, the parties will work together to negotiate a final agreement.

Former Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Barry Penner at the opening of the Tsawwassen Legislature in November 2010.

Tsawwassen treaty implementation: Since signing the Tsawwassen Final Agreement in 2009, the ministry has worked with Tsawwassen First Nation to access Canada's Economic Action Plan and construct the first phase of the Tsawwassen Industrial Lands, a ground-breaking $9 million project. The ministry also worked with Tsawwassen First Nation and the Corporation of Delta to finalize and give effect to a set of servicing agreements to facilitate the transition to self-government. The parties also partnered with the Fraser Health Authority to transition environmental and community health programs from Health Canada to the Fraser Health Authority.

The Northwest Transmission Line:

BC Hydro is planning the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line, a 340 kilometre long electric transmission line. The estimated cost of the project is $404 million and is being funded in part by the federal government. It is anticipated that the Northwest Transmission Line will act as a catalyst to increased economic development in northwest British Columbia. The project and associated development are expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

The ministry supported a completed impact benefit agreement between Nisga'a and BC Hydro that provided employment, contracting and other financial opportunities to the Nisga'a. The agreement provides Nisga'a support for the construction and operation of the Northwest Transmission Line and was ratified in the Nisga'a legislature.

Nisga'a totem poles in New Aiyansh

Minister Mary Polak and Minister Rich Coleman with representatives from BC Hydro and the Tahltan Nation with gifts exchanged after the three parties signed agreements that will support economic development, jobs and training opportunities. Left to right are Greg Reimer, BC Hydro; Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines; Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Annita L McPhee, Chair of Tahltan Central Council; Chief Rick Mclean and Chief Marie Quock.

Negotiators from the Province and the Tahltan Central Council completed and initialled the Government to Government and Northwest Transmission Line Negotiation Framework Agreement, which builds on the reconciliation framework and establishes a mutually beneficial partnership with respect to economic development in northwest British Columbia. The Northwest Transmission Line Framework Agreement sets out topics the parties commit to negotiate over the coming months, including:

- A shared decision-making agreement that will provide the Tahltan Central Council with a meaningful role in strategic and operational decision making with respect to land and resource decisions while reducing government's consultation workload;
- A multi-agency socio-cultural working group that will establish socio-cultural priorities and work to mitigate impacts related to the Northwest Transmission Line;
- An interim government-to-government forum to address strategic issues ahead of a completed strategic engagement agreement; and
- Revenue sharing opportunities on new projects, including mines and clean energy projects.

Improved consultation coordination:

The complexity of Aboriginal relations work across government has been steadily increasing. Beginning in 2009, a group of Aboriginal relations leaders from the natural resource sector developed a plan to align Aboriginal policy across the entire sector. Using existing resources, an Aboriginal Relations Integration Leadership Team (known as the "A-Team") was formed to align policy and operational advice to staff across all of the natural resource agencies and create new First Nations consultation procedures for the entire provincial government. Now more than 4,000 employees are using the same approach to consult with First Nations.

Aboriginal procurement policy for surveys:

During the survey of lands in the Maa-nulth Final Agreement and Yale early land transfers, the ministry developed a survey-specific Aboriginal procurement policy to provide employment and economic development opportunities to the communities. Benefits of the policy included training and employment for community members, and an open and competitive process when tendering survey work. Community members were employed on survey crews and a variety of local services were purchased including transportation, accommodation and catering.

Socio-economic initiatives:

- The ministry partnered with the BC Achievement Foundation to support the second annual B.C. Aboriginal Business Awards gala event, which honours and celebrates Aboriginal business acumen in the province. Nineteen Aboriginal businesses and business leaders were honoured at the event.

- The ministry provided support to 113 small Aboriginal-owned businesses across the province through the First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program. The program is delivered by five Aboriginal Capital Corporations with offices in various regions of the province.

- The Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective annual Unity in Action forum took place in March 2011 at the Sts'ailes (Chehalis) Healing Retreat Centre in Agassiz, British Columbia. The forum brings together youth leaders and Elders from each of the member organizations to discuss topics of importance to them and to build youth leadership skills.

- In preparation for the *Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum*, in June 2011, preliminary sessions were held with Aboriginal women and organizations across British Columbia. An additional youth session was held at the Gathering Our Voices conference in Prince Rupert and a focus session was conducted with the Métis Women of British Columbia. A literature review entitled *A Summary of Root Causes, Vulnerabilities and Recommendations from Key Literature* was also completed and shared nationally.

- The ministry supported Ahp-cii-uk, a multi-sectoral leadership initiative being piloted in three Nuu-chah-nulth communities, to continue its community-driven work in building lasting trust relationships among partners and improving the quality of life in Aboriginal communities. The ministry also worked to align provincial training programs with federal housing investments in three First Nation communities.

Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is responsible for leading efforts towards reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia. The ministry leads relationship-building with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal people and works across government and with other partners and stakeholders to better address the socio-economic gaps that separate Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians.

The ministry works to achieve reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples

As part of reconciling provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal and treaty rights, the ministry negotiates treaties and other lasting agreements. More recently, as an increasing number of agreements have been signed, the focus on implementation of these agreements has been enhanced. The ministry works with First Nations to seek ways to improve treaty making through tripartite tables that are working to address the policy and process challenges associated with concluding treaties.

Minister Mary Polak signs documents for the Maa-nulth Final Agreement.

In late 2010, the ministry was expanded to include eight regional offices which serve as a critical local presence and provide support for negotiation of non-treaty agreements, implementation of treaty and non-treaty agreements, conflict resolution, and liaison with other land and resource ministries.

The ministry provides leadership and policy advice on Aboriginal issues

The ministry provides strategic leadership and advice across government on the Province's relationship with Aboriginal peoples. The ministry initiates and promotes innovative approaches to Aboriginal policy, and leads the ongoing development and implementation of government's New Relationship with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples.

The ministry also leads, coordinates and reports on progress on the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* for government. The ministry manages cross-government policy frameworks related to Crown-Aboriginal relations, economic development, social sectors (health, education and housing), and language and culture initiatives. In addition,

the ministry provides input into national policy tables on social issues concerning Aboriginal peoples (on and off reserve).

The ministry supports capacity building in First Nation communities

The ministry works closely with First Nations on priorities they have identified to build capacity, based on individual communities' assets and strengths. It works with First Nations to foster strong governments, social justice and economic resiliency. It champions community capacity development principles within government to increase effectiveness in working with Aboriginal peoples. Additionally, the ministry supports opportunities for First Nations to participate in land- and resource-based revenue sharing agreements.

The ministry builds relationships and develops strong partnerships

Lieutenant Governor Steven Point watches as members of the Canadian Marine Forces Pacific hoist the "Sea Raven on the Salish Sea" canoe for its journey to the Salish Sea as part of the Salish Sea renaming ceremony.

The ministry builds collaborative relationships with First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal peoples based on respect and recognition to meet mutual interests. It actively works towards a future where the Province has forged positive, enduring relationships with Aboriginal peoples whose communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining. The ministry also works with the federal government and other organizations to enhance positive relationships with Aboriginal peoples. It promotes creative multi-sectoral work on Aboriginal initiatives, bringing together representatives from ministries, Crown agencies, Aboriginal partners, other levels of government, industry and non-governmental organizations.

Working with its partners, the ministry makes appointments to a number of agencies, boards and commissions including BC Treaty Commission; First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council; First Peoples' Advisory Committee; Native Economic Development Advisory Board and the New Relationship Trust Board.

The ministry works to support revitalization of Aboriginal language and culture

The decreasing number of First Nations individuals fluent in native languages signals the loss of an intrinsic expression of shared cultural heritage and affiliation. Language plays both practical and symbolic roles in maintaining and reinforcing cultural identity. Despite efforts to revitalize First Nations languages, the imminent extinction of many First Nation languages is still a concern. British Columbia is home to 32 distinct First Nation languages, representing about 60 per cent of all the indigenous languages in Canada.

For almost 20 years, the ministry has supported the revitalization of First Nations language, heritage, culture and arts through the work of the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. The Council develops and administers programs such as the B.C. Aboriginal Languages Initiative, which helps First Nations communities revitalize language through documentation, immersion programs and curriculum development and the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards Program, which supports emerging Aboriginal artists and organizations. In addition, the ministry partners with the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council, the New Relationship Trust and the First Peoples Cultural Foundation to deliver language immersion pilot programs for children, youth and elders, and to provide capacity and resource materials for speakers and learners of First Nations languages.

Minister Mary Polak joins Aboriginal youth and elders at the 2nd Annual Nenan Youth & Elders Gathering, July 20, 2010, near Fort St. John.

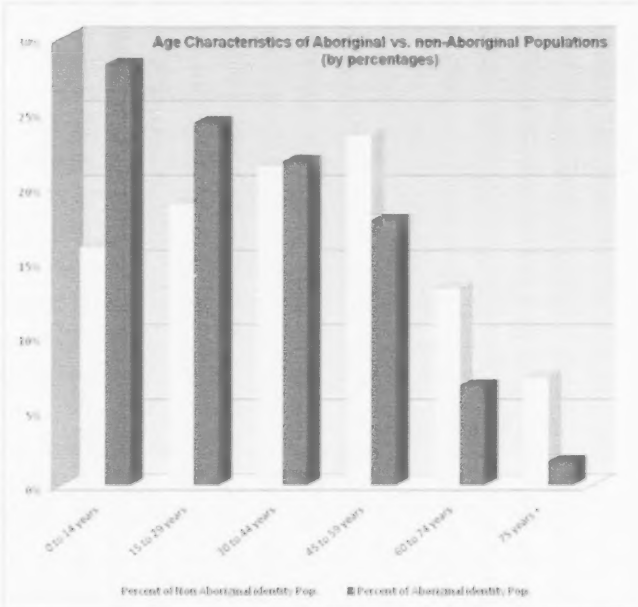
Strategic Context

The Legal Context

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 acknowledged that Aboriginal peoples in Canada possess certain rights and freedoms. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. Through a number of important decisions, the courts have reinforced that Aboriginal rights and title exist and that these rights must influence the way government operates. The Supreme Court of Canada has also stated that governments are obliged, by law, to justify infringements of Aboriginal and treaty rights as being required in the public interest.

Demographic and social factors

The Aboriginal population in British Columbia is characterized by unique demographic qualities that will inform policy and program decisions in the coming years. British Columbia is home to over one-third of the more than 600 First Nations in Canada, comprising the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups of Aboriginal peoples in the country. There are nearly 200,000 people in British Columbia who identify themselves as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit. Between 2001 and 2006, the Aboriginal population in the province grew by 15 per cent. This is more than three times the growth rate of the non-Aboriginal population.



The fastest growing population demographic province-wide is Aboriginal youth. In fact, the median age of the Aboriginal population in British Columbia is approximately 12 years younger than the median age of the province's overall population. The stark differences between the population "pyramids" of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations necessitate a broader policy approach and suite of programs and services. This demographic picture requires the British Columbia Government to engage Aboriginal youth to seek ways to address both their aspirations and their potential to make important contributions to productivity and labour market demands. The ministry is working with youth to find ways for them to create their own opportunities, by initiating leadership development projects and working with outside partners to

provide programming that focuses on youth-identified priorities such as creative technologies, sports and recreation, and traditional arts and culture projects.

Negotiation and implementation of treaties and other agreements

While challenges exist, innovative approaches, sound planning and vibrant partnerships with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations have made it possible for the ministry to maintain the dynamic energy that has moved parties closer to mutual goals in the last few years. As the number of agreements between British Columbia and First Nations grows, the ministry will target additional resources on agreement implementation.

Premier Christy Clark assists a child with placing an item into the time capsule, which was a gift to the Yale First Nation at the signing of the treaty.

British Columbia remains committed to the negotiation and implementation of treaties as an expression of reconciliation. Treaties are an important tool for First Nations to develop stable, healthy, resilient communities with governance over treaty lands and resources.

In addition to treaties, other lasting agreements, such as strategic engagement agreements and economic and community development agreements, represent innovative approaches to streamlining consultation obligations and sharing new resource revenues with First Nations. Such agreements also help build relationships with First Nations, resolve conflicts, and address concerns associated with development on traditional territories.

Towards reconciliation

"However reconciliation occurs, it is one of the foundations of the New Relationship, along with respect and recognition, and we will continue to build that relationship incrementally, one community at a time.

— Honourable Mary Polak

The ministry is also exploring new approaches to treaty with flexible agreements such as incremental treaty agreements, which provide benefits earlier in the process to allow First Nations to take advantage of economic development opportunities. Incremental treaty agreements accelerate treaty negotiations with First Nations participating in the treaty process. These agreements may also stimulate faster economic growth by reducing the time and costs associated with decision-making processes.

Métis

The ministry continues to work in partnership with Métis Nation BC to achieve the objectives of the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. The ministry has improved reporting on social and economic indicators for the Métis population against the commitments in the Accord. Métis are distinct Aboriginal people, with a unique history, language, and cultural traditions. Approximately 30 per cent of British Columbia's Aboriginal population self-identifies as Métis. To increase awareness of Métis culture, the ministry has enhanced content on the New Relationship website by including Métis related accomplishments and stories. (www.gov.bc.ca/themes/new_relationship.html)

Coordinated resource management

The ministry is working collaboratively with the ministries of Environment; Agriculture; Energy and Mines; Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and Jobs, Tourism and Innovation to promote integrated and timely delivery of services to clients in all regions across British Columbia. Such collaboration is designed to support the competitiveness of natural resource enterprises and reinforce sustainable environmental management. Collaborative efforts offer the opportunity for alignment of government resources to advance economic development and community resiliency. Improving the efficiency of service delivery will also help address the budget realities and demographic challenges facing the Province.

Climate change

The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund was created as part of the *Clean Energy Act* to facilitate increased participation of First Nations in clean, renewable energy projects within their traditional territories. Revenue sharing from these projects supports First Nations' financial participation in projects and provides funding that helps to build capacity.

The ministry is partnering with First Nations in British Columbia to support government's commitment to climate action and green energy initiatives and to generate new economic opportunities. First Nations have been assisted to engage potential sources of technical and financial assistance within government for projects that reduce climate impacts, such as renewable energy developments and greenhouse gas reduction projects.

The ministry is also supporting implementation of the provincial climate change adaptation strategy, which calls on government to consider climate change and its impacts, where relevant, in planning, projects, policies, legislation regulations and approvals, by assessing business risks and opportunities related to climate change.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal: Lead provincial efforts for reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples For greater detail see pages 18 to 26	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
Objective 1: **Close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians**		
Performance Measure 1: New provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations	25	34 EXCEEDED
Objective 2: **Reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal rights and treaty rights**		
Performance Measure 2: Treaties and other agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation	16	63 EXCEEDED
Objective 3: **Work with First Nations to create opportunities to increase community and economic development capacity**		
Performance Measure 3: Initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations	11	12 ACHIEVED
Performance Measure 4: Initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples	12	17 EXCEEDED
Objective 6: **Increase awareness of the importance of Aboriginal cultures, and the history of the relationship between the Province and Aboriginal peoples**		
Performance Measure 5: Percentage of British Columbians who agree that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to British Columbia	75%[1]	75% ACHIEVED

[1] This measure was revised in the 2011/12 – 2013/14 service plan to more accurately reflect an overall positive trend in public awareness by measuring the percentage of survey respondents who generally agree that First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to British Columbia.

Goal, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal: Lead provincial efforts for reconciliation with First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is the provincial lead for pursuing reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples of British Columbia. Reconciliation involves working to heal the relationships between the Province and Aboriginal peoples. It entails the Province and Aboriginal peoples working collaboratively towards a future built on positive, just and enduring relationships by examining areas of conflict and opportunity. Reconciliation is a dynamic process intended to create social, economic, and cultural benefits for all parties. It involves everyone in the province and takes into account all aspects of the relationship. Reconciliation is an ongoing process, and is rarely straightforward. It requires trust and commitment to overcome stumbling blocks along the way, and openness to learning from each other at all stages. Relationships built on mutual respect and recognition are key to making reconciliation possible.

Minister Mary Polak (back row, second from right) and Lieutenant Governor Steven Point (seated, front row, third from left) join First Nations leaders and representatives at the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference, Prince Rupert

Objective 1: Close the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal peoples and other British Columbians

Strategies

- Work across government and in partnership with Aboriginal peoples to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* in areas such as education, housing and infrastructure, health, economic development, and Crown-Aboriginal relations.
- Monitor and report on activities and progress towards meeting the goals of the *Transformative Change Accord* and *Métis Nation Relationship Accord.*

- Negotiate and implement agreements with First Nations, including treaties, which contribute to addressing social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.
- Facilitate and support collaboration among Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives to close the socio-economic gaps.

Performance Results: Measure 1 – Collaborative policy development

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
New provincial policies and initiatives that have been developed collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations	18	20	25	34 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and ministries participating in the implementation of *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*.

Discussion of Results

The Province recognizes that full partnership with Aboriginal peoples is critical to closing the socio-economic gaps. Collaboration on provincial policies and initiatives helps to ensure culturally appropriate and meaningful responses to key priorities. For example, the ministry worked with representatives from First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal organizations to implement an initiative called Building Capacity in Aboriginal Relations, which is intended to provide provincial public service employees with tools to provide knowledge and enable more effective and respectful work in the field of Aboriginal relations.

Apart from direct engagement with Aboriginal peoples, the ministry also facilitated relationships between ministries and Aboriginal organizations and was instrumental in supporting and encouraging initiatives in the areas of housing, cultural awareness, education and health.

Ministry Response

The government reorganization in October 2010 increased the ministry's areas of responsibility and, consequently, increased the number of initiatives on which the ministry now reports.

Objective 2: Reconcile Provincial interests with First Nations' Aboriginal rights and treaty rights

Strategies

- Negotiate and implement treaties and other lasting agreements that lead to reconciling provincial interests with Aboriginal rights and treaty rights and contribute to closing social and economic gaps.

- Work with First Nation communities to build the capacity required to prepare for the treaty effective date, and use capacity development principles in negotiating and creating agreements.
- Support the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, the British Columbia Government and local governments.
- Continue to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes.

Celebrating the introduction of the Yale treaty legislation.

Performance Results: Measure 2 – Treaties and other agreements[2]

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
Treaties and other agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation	14	18	16	63 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate (includes treaty and non-treaty process agreements).

Discussion of Results

While treaty agreements are the Province's preferred means of reconciling Aboriginal rights and title with the sovereignty of the Crown, other types of agreements can also contribute to reconciliation. For example, incremental treaty agreements provide beneficial results in the short term, which build progress towards the making of final treaties. In 2010/11, a final agreement was ratified by Yale First Nation. The ministry also completed four different agreements and one Memorandum of Understanding with Treaty 8 First Nations. Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSAs) are three-year agreements with First Nations that provide economic benefits in the form of revenue sharing payments based on forest harvesting activity within a First Nation's traditional territory. Fifty-two FCRSAs were signed in 2010/11.

Ministry Response

The target for this measure was exceeded as a result of the government reorganization, which moved the reporting responsibility for FCRSAs to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

[2] As a result of the government reorganization in October 2010, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation acquired certain accountabilities that were previously associated with other ministries. This measure now encompasses measure #3 in the previous 2010/11 Ministry of Forests Service Plan *number of communities and First Nations involved in forest and range planning through tenure and agreements.*

Objective 3: Work with First Nations to create opportunities to increase community and economic development capacity

Strategies

- Support First Nations' access to land and resource tenures.
- Work with other ministries to champion First Nations' access to business venture and economic development opportunities such as resource development agreements, benefit agreements and other strategic agreements, and employment initiatives in the private and public sectors.
- Work with other ministries to support First Nations' access to training and skills development as well as support systems associated with economic development.
- Support governance and capacity initiatives, including community development approaches that build capacity in First Nations governments and organizations, such as youth and women's groups.

Performance Results: Measure 3 – Engagement capacity[3]

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
Initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations	10	12	11	12 ACHIEVED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Discussion of Results

In 2010/11, the ministry worked with Aboriginal communities on a number of initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities in First Nation communities. Among these initiatives are working with youth in Ehattesaht and Tseycum and building capacity in leadership and strategic planning in First Nations communities. The ministry also assisted communities in building relationships and networks to access funding to support their priorities.

Ceremony at the Gathering Our Voices conference in Prince Rupert

One of many tools being used by government to support the New Relationship and *Transformative Change Accord* objectives are strategic engagement agreements with First Nations. Strategic

[3] As a result of the government reorganization in October 2010, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation acquired certain accountabilities that were previously associated with other ministries. This measure now encompasses performance measure #3 from the former Integrated Land Management Bureau, *number of negotiated strategic engagement agreements reached with, or presented to, First Nations annually for consideration.*

engagement agreements involve multiple agencies and First Nations, cover large areas and are intended to reduce the overall consultation workload and improve working relationships with First Nations. These agreements act as an incremental step towards treaty. In 2010/11, the ministry concluded the implementation of strategic engagement agreements with Nanwakolas First Nation and the Tsilhqot'in National Government and signed a strategic engagement with Ktunaxa First Nation.

Performance Results: Measure 4 – Economic development opportunities[4]

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
Initiatives that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples	N/A	N/A	12	17 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and other ministries and Crown agencies as appropriate (includes agreements that provide revenues, economic benefits, training and jobs to Aboriginal people)

Discussion of Results

In 2010/11, the ministry partnered with First Nations and Aboriginal organizations and provided funding to create and stimulate economic opportunities. The ministry also supported economic opportunities through the First Citizens Fund Business Loan Program, Business Advisory Centers and Business Support Officers, and continued to support the Aboriginal BEST entrepreneurship training program and the B.C. Aboriginal Business Awards.

A number of economic and community development agreements (ECDAs) were also signed in 2010/11. ECDAs are agreements between Government and First Nations for sharing the direct mineral tax revenue on new mines and major mine expansions and are entered into on a case-by-case basis with the impacted First Nations. The ECDAs signed in 2010/11 were the Mount Milligan ECDA (with McLeod lake Indian Band) and the New Afton ECDA (with Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation).

Ministry Response

The ministry leveraged existing relationships to achieve higher than anticipated results in 2010/11. For example, there were opportunities to expand the Aboriginal BEST program. A number of different communities came forward and wanted to partner with the ministry on this initiative. Additionally, the ministry and other organizations have been increasing collaborative efforts at pooling resources to achieve greater results.

[4] As a result of the government reorganization in October 2010, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation acquired certain accountabilities that were previously associated with other ministries. This measure now encompasses performance measure #6 from the previous Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, *the number of energy, mineral and petroleum resource related development projects where revenue sharing negotiations are active or complete with First Nations.*

Objective 4: Build stronger relationships with urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

- Work to ensure that provincial initiatives to close social and economic gaps address the distinct needs of urban Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations and Métis.
- Support coordinated and collaborative approaches involving provincial ministries, the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to address urban Aboriginal social and economic issues.
- Support Métis governance and capacity development on a tripartite basis.
- Work with other ministries to support urban and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples' access to education, training, skills development and employment initiatives, as well as support systems associated with economic development.
- Improve data collection and reporting specific to the Métis and urban Aboriginal populations.

Objective 5: Strengthen the Province's capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

- Support and coordinate actions by ministries and Crown agencies related to the New Relationship and improving social and economic outcomes.
- Work within government, with First Nations and with First Nation leaders to understand, clarify and seek solutions to issues involving Aboriginal rights and title.
- Coordinate and streamline consultation processes and integrate information sharing practices within the ministry and with provincial government partners.
- Improve corporate knowledge and awareness for working with Aboriginal peoples and communities to improve socio-economic outcomes including community development approaches.
- Increase awareness of Aboriginal cultures, traditions and governance systems, and of how culture impacts the way provincial representatives interact with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Objective 6: Increase awareness of the importance of Aboriginal cultures, and the history of the relationship between the Province and Aboriginal peoples

Strategies

- Continue to work with First Nations and Métis leaders and organizations to celebrate their history, culture and ongoing contributions to British Columbia.
- Support the leadership of First Peoples Heritage, Language and Culture Council to revitalize First Nations languages, cultures, arts and heritage.
- Support Aboriginal place names proposed by First Nations being added to the British Columbia Geographical Names Database.
- Develop policy to acknowledge British Columbia's history in agreements with Aboriginal peoples.

Performance Results: Measure 5 – Public Awareness

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Target	2010/11 Actual
Percentage of British Columbians who agree that First Nations have made a wide range of contributions to British Columbia	30%	32%	75%[5]	75% ACHIEVED

Data Source: *New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in B.C.: Measuring Outcomes 2009/10*

Discussion of Results

The ministry continues to work at increasing positive public awareness and to honour the valuable contributions of Aboriginal peoples to British Columbia. For example, May 27, 2010 was proclaimed as Four Host First Nations Day in recognition of the achievements of the four First Nations who hosted the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Furthermore, six individuals were honoured as recipients of the 2010 B.C. Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art. The naming of the Salish Sea and the renaming of Haida Gwaii are additional examples of how the ministry is working to honour the contributions of First Nations in British Columbia.

Haida Gwaii renaming ceremony

Salish Sea Renaming

"Coast Salish peoples have traversed these waters for thousands of years and this name pays homage to our collective history. Today's celebration reflects the growing understanding and appreciation of our cultures. It is another step in the bridge of reconciliation."

Lieutenant Governor Steven Point

[5] This measure was revised in the 2011/12 – 2013/14 service plan to more accurately reflect an overall positive trend in public awareness by measuring the percentage of survey respondents who generally agree that First Nations have made a wide range of valuable contributions to British Columbia.

Report on Resources

	Estimated[1]	Other Authorizations[2]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance[3]
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Treaty Negotiations and Implementation	14,147	4,249	18,396	18,396	0
Community and Socio-Economic Development	3,751	391	4,142	4,142	0
Strategic Initiatives	7,823	0	7,823	7,346	(477)
Executive and Support Services	4,184	776	4,960	4,787	(173)
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	5,927	5,768	11,695	11,695	0
First Citizens Fund Special Account	3,968	0,000	3,968	3,837	(131)
Crown Land Administration (Transfer from Ministry of Agriculture)	0	425	425	432	7
Marketing, Aboriginal and Community Relations (Transfer from Ministry of Energy and Mines)	0	600	600	600	0
Contracts and Funding Arrangements (Transfer from Ministry of Energy and Mines)	0	1	1	0	(1)
Forest and Range Resource Management (Transfer from Ministry of Forests and Range)	0	38,538	38,538	38,538	0
Integrated Land Management Bureau (Transfer from Ministry of Forests and Range)	0	5,491	5,491	5,490	(1)
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund Special Account	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	**39,800**	**56,239**	**96,039**	**95,263**	**(776)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	23	0,000	23	15	(8)
Total	**23**	**0,000**	**23**	**15**	**(8)**
Other Financing Transactions ($000)[5]					
Settlement and Implementation Costs of Treaties and Other Agreements	1,750	0,000	1,750	1,748	(2)

[1] The amounts in the "Estimated" column correspond to the *Estimates* as presented to the legislative assembly in February 2010.

[2] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies.

[3] Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated." If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

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Hyperlinks to Additional Information

New Relationship
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/newrelationship/down/new_relationship.pdf

Transformative Change Accord
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/transformative_change_accord.pdf

Métis Nation Relationship Accord
www.gov.bc.ca/arr/social/down/arr_Métis_accord.pdf

BC Treaty Commission
www.bctreaty.net/index.php

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council
www.fphlcc.ca/

New Relationship Trust
www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/